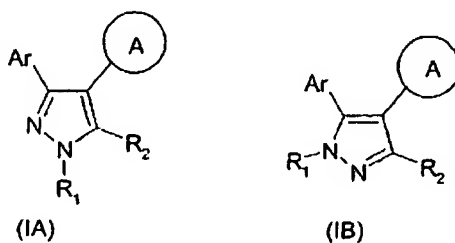


The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (IA) or (IB) or a salt, ~~or N-oxide, hydrate or solvate thereof:~~

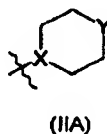


wherein

Ar is a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group which is optionally further substituted in the 5-position,

R₁ and R₂ are independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, hydroxyethyl, or benzyl;

ring A is a ring of formula (IIA)



wherein X represents N, and Y represents CH, O, S or NH,

wherein (i) a ring carbon is optionally substituted, and/or (ii) a ring nitrogen is optionally substituted by a group of formula $-(\text{Alk}^1)_p-(\text{Cyc})_n-(\text{Alk}^3)_m-(\text{Z})_r-(\text{Alk}^2)_s-\text{Q}$ where

Alk¹, Alk² and Alk³ are optionally substituted C₁-C₃ alkyl,

Cyc is an optionally substituted phenylene radical;

m, n, p, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is -O-, -S-, -(C=O)-, -SO₂-, -C(=O)O-, -OC(=O)-, -NR^A-, -C(=O)NR^A-,

-NR^AC(=O)-, -SO₂NR^A-, or -NR^ASO₂- wherein R^A is hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl, and

Q is ~~hydrogen or an optionally substituted~~ phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl.

~~imidazolyl, or morpholinyl-carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical; and~~

wherein "optionally substituted" means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, -COOH, -COOR^A, -COR^A, -SO₂R^A, -CONH₂, -CONHNH₂; -CONHNHR^A, -CONHNR^AR^B, -SO₂NH₂, -CONHR^A, SO₂NHR^A, -CONR^AR^B, -SO₂NR^AR^B, -NH₂, -NHR^A, -NR^AR^B, -OCONH₂, -OCONHR^A, -OCONR^AR^B, -NHCOR^A, -NHCOOR^A, -NR^BCOOR^A, -NHOSO₂OR^A, -NR^BSO₂OR^A, -NHCONH₂, -NR^ACONH₂, -NHCONHR^B, -NR^ACONHR^B, -NHCONR^AR^B, and -NR^ACONR^AR^B wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group.

Claims 2-8 (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R₁ and R₂ are each hydrogen.

Claims 10-12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 9 wherein in the ring of formula (IIA), Y is -NR^A - wherein R^A is a radical of formula -(Alk¹)_s-Q, wherein Alk¹ is a C₁-C₃ alkylene radical and Q is optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl, imidazolyl or morpholinyl, wherein optionally substituted means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, -COOH, -COOR^A, -COR^A, -SO₂R^A, -CONH₂, -CONHNH₂; -CONHNHR^A, -CONHNR^AR^B, -SO₂NH₂, -CONHR^A, SO₂NHR^A, -CONR^AR^B, -SO₂NR^AR^B, -NH₂, -NHR^A, -NR^AR^B, -OCONH₂, -OCONHR^A, -OCONR^AR^B, -NHCOR^A, -NHCOOR^A, -NR^BCOOR^A, -NHOSO₂OR^A, -NR^BSO₂OR^A, -NHCONH₂, -NR^ACONH₂, -NHCONHR^B, -NR^ACONHR^B, -NHCONR^AR^B, and -NR^ACONR^AR^B wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group ~~is defined as in claim 1.~~

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 9 wherein in the ring of formula (IIA), Y is $-NR^A$ wherein R^A is a radical of formula $-(Alk^1)_p-(Cyc)_n-(Alk^3)_m-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q$ wherein Alk^1 , Alk^2 , Alk^3 , Cyc , Z and Q are as defined in claim 1

Alk^1 , Alk^2 and Alk^3 are optionally substituted C_1 - C_3 alkyl.

Cyc is an optionally substituted phenylene radical;

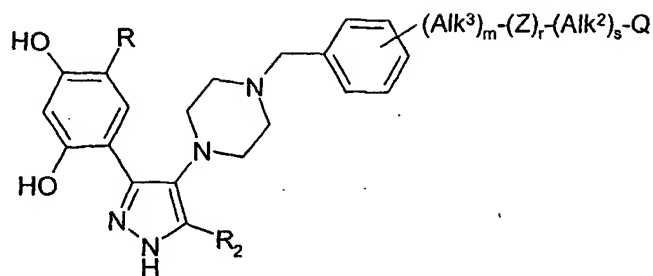
Z is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-(C=O)-$, $-SO_2-$, $-C(=O)O-$, $-OC(=O)-$, $-NR^A-$, $-C(=O)NR^A-$,

$-NR^AC(=O)-$, $-SO_2NR^A-$, or $-NR^ASO_2-$ wherein R^A is hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, and

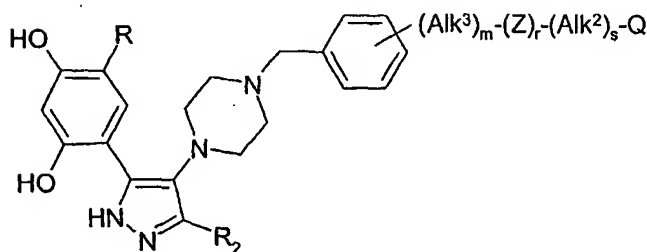
Q is an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl, imidazolyl, or morpholinyl wherein "optionally substituted" means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from $(C_1$ - C_6)alkyl, $(C_1$ - C_6)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy $(C_1$ - C_6)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto $(C_1$ - C_6)alkyl, $(C_1$ - C_6)alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, $-COOH$, $-COOR^A$, $-COR^A$, $-SO_2R^A$, $-CONH_2$, $-CONHNH_2$, $-CONHNHR^A$, $-CONHNHR^AR^B$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-CONHR^A$, $-SO_2NHR^A$, $-CONR^AR^B$, $-SO_2NR^AR^B$, $-NH_2$, $-NHR^A$, $-NR^AR^B$, $-OCONH_2$, $-OCONHR^A$, $-OCONR^AR^B$, $-NHCOR^A$, $-NHCOOR^A$, $-NR^BCOOR^A$, $-NHCO_2OR^A$, $-NR^BSO_2OR^A$, $-NHCONH_2$, $-NR^ACONH_2$, $-NHCONHR^B$, $-NR^ACONHR^B$, $-NHCONR^AR^B$, and $-NR^ACONR^AR^B$ wherein R^A and R^B are independently a $(C_1$ - C_6)alkyl group.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (IC) or (ID) or a salt, or N-oxide, hydrate or solvate thereof:



(IC)



(ID)

wherein R is hydrogen, an optional substituent, chloro, bromo, or a phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring, and R_2 , m, r, s, Alk^3 , Z, Alk^2 and optionally substituted are as defined in claim 1

R_2 is independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, hydroxyethyl, or benzyl;

Alk^2 and Alk^3 are optionally substituted C_1 - C_3 alkyl,

m, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is -O-, -S-, -(C=O)-, -SO₂-, -C(=O)O-, -OC(=O)-, -NR[^]-, -C(=O)NR[^]-,

-NR[^]C(=O)-, -SO₂NR[^]-, or -NR[^]SO₂- wherein R[^] is hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, and

Q is an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl, imidazolyl, or morpholinyl,

wherein "optionally substituted" means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, (C_1 - C_6)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy(C_1 - C_6)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto(C_1 - C_6)alkyl, (C_1 - C_6)alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl,

trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, -COOH, -COOR^A, -COR^A, -SO₂R^A, -CONH₂, -CONHNH₂, -CONHNHR^A, -CONHNRR^A, -SO₂NH₂, -CONHR^A, SO₂NHR^A, -CONR^AR^B, -SO₂NR^AR^B, -NH₂, -NHR^A, -NR^AR^B, -OCONH₂, -OCONHR^A, -OCONR^AR^B, -NHCOR^A, -NHCOOR^A, -NR^BCOOR^A, -NHSO₂OR^A, -NR^BSO₂OR^A, -NHCONH₂, -NR^ACONH₂, -NHCONHR^B, -NR^ACONHR^B, -NHCONR^AR^B, and -NR^ACONR^AR^B wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 17 wherein $[[n]]_m$ is 0, r is 1, and Z is -C(=O)NH-.

Claims 21 – 27 (Canceled)

28. (New) A compound as claimed in claim 13 wherein Ar is a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group which is further substituted in the 5-position by chloro or bromo; or by optionally substituted phenyl or C₁-C₆ alkyl; or by a phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring thereof, and wherein "optionally substituted" is means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, -COOH, -COOR^A, -COR^A, -SO₂R^A, -CONH₂, -CONHNH₂, -CONHNHR^A, -CONHNRR^A, -SO₂NH₂, -CONHR^A, SO₂NHR^A, -CONR^AR^B, -SO₂NR^AR^B, -NH₂, -NHR^A, -NR^AR^B, -OCONH₂, -OCONHR^A, -OCONR^AR^B, -NHCOR^A, -NHCOOR^A, -NR^BCOOR^A, -NHSO₂OR^A, -NR^BSO₂OR^A, -NHCONH₂, -NR^ACONH₂, -NHCONHR^B, -NR^ACONHR^B, -NHCONR^AR^B, and -NR^ACONR^AR^B wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group as defined in claim 1.